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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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EXAMINER

GARRETT, DAWN L

ART UNIT

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1794

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DELIVERY MODE

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PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/694,044	Applicant(s) KIM ET AL.	
	Examiner Dawn Garrett	Art Unit 1794	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 November 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7,9-11,24,26,27 and 30 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3,5-7,9-11,24,26,27 and 30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 28 October 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action is responsive to the amendment filed November 13, 2008. Claims 1, 3, 24, and 30 were amended. Claims 4, 8, 12-23, 25, 28, and 29 are cancelled. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 9-11, 24, 26, 27, and 30 are pending.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 24 and 30 are objected to because of the following informalities: The claim amendment indicates the hole blocking layer is one of Formula 24 or 26 and the words "Formula 25" have a strikethrough marking; however, the structural formula for formula 25 does not have a strikethrough marking. In the next claim amendment, Formula 25 and its structural formula should be shown as deleted from the claim. For the purpose of examination, claims 1, 24, and 30 have been treated as though Formula 25 is not present in the claim. Appropriate correction is required.

3. The objection to claims 1, 3, 24 and 30 set forth in the last office action (mailed August 13, 2008, paragraph 5) is withdrawn due to the amendment.

4. The rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Konuma et al. (US 2002/0030443 A1) is withdrawn due to the amendment excluding instant formula 25.

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5. The rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-11, 26, and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwon et al. (EP 0 851 714) in view of Konuma et al. (US 2002/0030443 A1) is withdrawn due to the amendment.

6. The rejection of claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwon et al. (EP 0 851 714) in view of Konuma et al. (US 2002/0030443 A1) in further view of Fujita et al. (US 2003/0008224) is withdrawn due to the amendment.

7. The rejection of claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 24 and 30 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Akai (US 2003/0045021) in view of Konuma et al. (US 2002/0030443 A1) is withdrawn due to the amendment.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

9. Claim 24 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wakimoto et al. (US 2001/0052751 A1 A1). Wakimoto et al. discloses a device having a first electrode, first organic film layer, emitting layer, second organic film and second electrode film wherein the first organic film is a hole blocking layer according to instant formula 24, which is “BAIq” (see Example 1, paragraph 36, describing a device with a BAIq hole blocking layer as well as explanation of the other layers in the device at paragraphs 29-35).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

10. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 1-3, 5, 7, 9-11, 26, and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwon et al. (EP 0 851 714) in view of Wakimoto et al. (US 2001/0052751 A1).

Kwon et al. disclose a donor film for forming an organic electroluminescence device comprising a base film (substrate film), a light-absorbing layer (photothermal conversion layer) and a transfer layer formed of a luminous material (see abstract). All of the adhesion properties set forth in claim 1 are considered to be inherent to the donor film. One purpose of a donor film is to adhere better to the substrate onto which it is transferred as compared to the substrate it is leaving. The process limitations in claim 1 are not significant, because the product, a donor film, is being claimed. Kwon discloses multi-layers of functional material for the EL device as the transfer layer (see page 8, lines 27-34). Kwon et al. discloses formula (1) for the transfer layer, which is identical to formula 1 of claim 3 with regard to the low molecular weight organic electroluminescent material (see page 4, lines 21-35). The transfer layer may further comprise hole transfer material and electron transfer material per claim 4 (see abstract). The hole transfer material may include formula (8), which is identical to Formula 14 of claim 5 (see page 6, lines 25-43). Kwon et al. further discloses 1, 3, 4-oxadiazole derivative as an electron transfer material per claim 7 (see page 6, lines 20-24).

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Kwon et al. is silent with respect to reciting expressly forming a hole blocking layer as part of the functional layers of the transfer layer to form an operational EL device. Wakimoto et al. teaches, in analogous art, a light emitting device may comprise the following functional layers: Hole injection layer, hole blocking layer, electron transporting layer, and light emitting layer (see par. 22). A hole blocking layer may be formed of BAlq per instant formula 24 (see pg. 3, compound (5) and Example 1, par. 36). Luminous material may include Ir(ppy)₃ among others per instant claim 3 formula 12 (see par. 31 and pg. 6, compound (32)). With regard to claim 7, a layer of Alq₃ is disposed between the cathode and the hole blocking layer of the devices (see par. 33, which describes the comparative example having the same electron transporting layer as Example 1). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have formed a donor substrate according to the teachings of Kwon et al. using the EL device functional layers taught by Wakimoto et al. as the transfer layer(s) for forming an EL device, because one would expect the Wakimoto et al. functional layers as the transfer layer to result in a highly reliable EL device as desired by Wakimoto et al. [The following is further noted: Applicant claims a combination that only unites old elements with no change in the respective functions of those old elements, and the combination of those elements yields predictable results; absent evidence that the modifications necessary to effect the combination of elements is uniquely challenging or difficult for one of ordinary skill in the art, the claim is unpatentable as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Ex Parte Smith, 83 USPQ2d at 1518-19 (BPAI, 2007) (citing KSR, 127 S.Ct. at 1740, 82 USPQ2d at 1396). Accordingly, since applicant has submitted no persuasive evidence that the combination of the above elements is uniquely challenging or difficult for one of ordinary skill in the art, the claim is unpatentable as

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obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) because it is no more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions resulting in the simple substitution of one known element for another or the mere application of a known technique to a piece of prior art ready for improvement.]

The Kwon et al. light absorbing layer (photothermal layer) is comprised of polymer containing carbon black, graphite or infrared absorbing dye (see page 4, lines 8-10) per claims 9 and 10. The base film (substrate film) is comprised of any transparent polymer including polyesters (see col. 4, lines 4-7). Kwon et al. further discloses a gas generating layer (see claim 15, page 18) with regard to claim 26. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have formed a device comprising all the recited components of a donor substrate for thermal transfer, because Kwon et al. teaches all the materials to form such a substrate and one would expect to arrive at a donor substrate able to form a desired EL device for light emission.

12. Claim 27 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kwon et al. (EP 0 851 714) in view of Wakimoto et al. (US 2001/0052751 A1) in further view of Fujita et al. (US 2003/0008224). Kwon et al. is relied upon as set forth above. Kwon et al. discloses a gas generating layer (see claim 15, page 18) with regard to claim 26, but fails to set forth the specific gas-generating compounds of claim 27. Fujita et al. teaches in analogous art an exemplary gas-generating layer comprising either PETN or TNT (see par. 59). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have selected either PETN or TNT as a gas-generating material of the gas-producing layer of the donor film taught by Kwon, because Fujita et al. teach PETN or TNT as gas-generating material in the art.

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13. Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 24 and 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Akai (US 2003/0045021) in view of Wakimoto et al. (US 2001/0052751 A1). Akai discloses transfer donor films for organic electroluminescent devices (see abstract and par. 82). The donor film comprises a base film (substrate) formed of a polymer such as PET (see par 84) and an organic film (see par. 87). The organic film (transfer layer) comprises multiple layers (see par. 87-89). One of those layers of the organic film may be a light emitting layer comprising Alq3 per Formula 1 of claim 3 (see par. 93). A further layer may comprise the following materials: CuPc (per claim 6) and oxadiazole compounds (per claim 7) (see par. 95 and 96). A light to heat conversion layer is formed on the base film per the photothermal film (see par. 86).

With regard to claims 1, 24 and 30, Akai does not expressly recite a “hole blocking layer” as one of the multiple layers to form an EL device. Wakimoto et al. teaches, in analogous art, a light emitting device may comprise the following functional layers: Hole injection layer, hole blocking layer, electron transporting layer, and light emitting layer (see par. 22). A hole blocking layer may be formed of BAlq per instant formula 24 (see pg. 3, compound (5) and Example 1, par. 36). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have formed a donor substrate including a hole blocking functional layer for forming an EL device, because one would expect the hole blocking layer to provide the benefit of increased electron movement and hole blocking function, which would provide efficient light emission, through the EL device to be formed by the donor substrate. It further would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have formed a donor substrate according to the teachings of Akai using the EL device functional layers taught

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by Wakimoto et al. as the transfer layer(s) for forming an EL device, because one would expect the Wakimoto et al. functional layers as the transfer layer to result in a highly reliable EL device as desired by Wakimoto et al. [The following is further noted: Applicant claims a combination that only unites old elements with no change in the respective functions of those old elements, and the combination of those elements yields predictable results; absent evidence that the modifications necessary to effect the combination of elements is uniquely challenging or difficult for one of ordinary skill in the art, the claim is unpatentable as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a). Ex Parte Smith, 83 USPQ.2d at 1518-19 (BPAI, 2007) (citing KSR, 127 S.Ct. at 1740, 82 USPQ2d at 1396). Accordingly, since applicant has submitted no persuasive evidence that the combination of the above elements is uniquely challenging or difficult for one of ordinary skill in the art, the claim is unpatentable as obvious under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) because it is no more than the predictable use of prior art elements according to their established functions resulting in the simple substitution of one known element for another or the mere application of a known technique to a piece of prior art ready for improvement.]

Response to Arguments

14. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

15. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

16. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dawn Garrett whose telephone number is (571) 272-1523. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Keith Hendricks can be reached on (571) 272-1401. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Dawn Garrett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1794

January 24, 2009